



DOUGLAS KESSEL / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

I SPY | Executive Vice President for Arts and Sciences Nicholas Dirks delivered the University Lecture on Monday night.

Dirks talks academia, spies at University Lecture

BY JEREMY BUDD
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

For some spies, training started with an anthropology degree.

Executive Vice President for Arts and Sciences Nicholas Dirks, in the semiannual University Lecture, explored the tricky role academics played in Cold War espionage.

Dirks, an anthropology professor and former department chair, discussed the formation of the Office of Strategic Services in the 1940s, which organized spy missions for the United States Armed Forces, and how a number of professors played influential roles in providing an understanding of other cultures.

The OSS sought out professors who were experts on various parts of the world to assist policy makers.

“Modernization was an inexorable process that would lead to political and economic development, along with mutual understanding,” Dirks said. “U.S. universities had to provide training for cultures, politics, and history.”

The Cold War, Dirks said, showed many universities the importance of area studies—the fall of the Berlin Wall and, later, the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 led to newfound interest in the disciplines.

“Much of the support for area studies over the past two decades has come from immigrants and international communities who understand the importance of supporting curricular commitments to specific regions and nations,” Dirks said.

“In the face of globalization, area studies hardly seems

suited for the task at hand,” he said. “We must study not just the connectedness of things, but things that connect—what happens when they connect, and the specific places that inhabit the ... world that we still live in.”

Anthropology professor E. Valentine Daniel said that Dirks’ lecture raised important questions about what it means to be “worldly” or “global.”

“It was interesting that scholarship didn’t sell its soul,” he said. Even though many academics wanted to stay at universities, he said, many did participate in espionage.

“Cultures became much more important,” he said. “There were cultural anthropologists who were spies.”

Both University President Lee Bollinger and Provost John Coatsworth, in introducing

Dirks, stressed the importance of figuring out the role of globalization in academia.

“It’s a wonderful occasion to have Nick Dirks because he is steeped in this world of area studies,” Bollinger said. “We’re now living in this era in a way that is highly connected—we’re all trying to figure out, at universities, what does globalization mean.”

Coatsworth explained that area studies became important at other institutions because World War II exposed the need to improve the understanding of different cultures, a conversation that has continued at Columbia for decades.

“It is worth noting that the trajectory of area studies in the United States during and

SEE DIRKS, page 2

Ex-cons deter youth from gun violence

Harlem org. has former criminals help stop crime early

BY LUKE BARNES
Spectator Staff Writer

After a string of shootings in Harlem last year refocused the spotlight on local violence, one organization is turning to ex-felons to keep young people from committing violent crimes.

Operation S.N.U.G.—which spells “guns” backwards—recruits former gang members and others who have served prison time to work directly with at-risk youth.

“It’s a credible messenger approach,” said Courtney Bennett, director of community and government relations for the New York City Mission Society, which operates S.N.U.G. “And the guys who’ve been through it make much better messengers.”

Launched in 2009, the state-funded program employs six outreach managers, each responsible for about 15 teenagers, as well as two “violence interrupters.”

“We tend to use an approach where we canvas the street and deal with specific hot spots,” Bennett said.

He likened the violence interrupters to rangers or firefighters who go into a forest fire to

suppress the fire before it gets out of hand.

“Whenever there’s a shooting or a stabbing, we go to the hospital, and we try to find out what happened and if there’s going to be a retaliatory attack,” he said.

When outreach managers identify young people who might turn to guns or gangs, “we find out what they’re doing on a regular basis, help them stay out of trouble, and connect to services,” he said. “If they’re in school, we try to help them stay in school, or if they’re trying to get to college, we connect them to those services.”

Bennett stressed that while S.N.U.G. and the New York Police Department ultimately share goals, the program does not exchange information it may learn about premeditated shootings with the police.

“We don’t tell the police what we know, if we know anything, and we don’t ask the police. If something’s going on with them, we usually know before anyway.”

S.N.U.G. is based on a Chicago program called Ceasefire Chicago, which uses similar techniques of intervention and

SEE S.N.U.G., page 2



ZARA CASTANY / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

EARLY INTERVENTION | Operation S.N.U.G., headquartered at Minisink Townhouse in north Harlem, works to get guns out of the hands of young people early.

Council member Brewer to run for borough president

BY CASEY TOLAN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Upper West Side City Council member Gale Brewer is running for Manhattan borough president in 2013, according to Politicker, a blog of the New York Observer.

“I’m going to definitely do it. I haven’t gotten myself organized because I’m working on so many different issues, but I will,” Brewer told the New York politics website Thursday night.

Brewer, who has been a City Council member since 2002, cannot run for re-election because of term limits. She told Politicker her experience sets her apart in the borough president race.

“I think I have this amazing, long history. I mean, I’ve worked all the way back to [mayor] John Lindsay, so I have worked on non-profit sector, affordable housing, education,” Brewer said. “There’s nothing that I haven’t really worked on, and I think that’s what I bring to the table—a wide knowledge of many different issues.”

Brewer told Spectator at the start of the month that she was “considering” a run for borough president and she would make up her mind soon. She did not respond to a request for comment

on Monday.

Recently, Brewer has made news for her role in the Paid Sick Leave Movement, oversight of food trucks, and work on the Columbus Avenue street redesign. Before entering the City Council, Brewer also held several positions in nonprofits and in city government.

Brewer is entering an already-crowded field, which includes City Council member Robert Jackson, who represents Harlem and Morningside Heights, along with Community Board 1 chair Julie Menin and Upper East Side council member Jessica Lappin.

“I’m always optimistic. I have a great district, and I’ve been working on all these different issues from women to affordable development for a very long time,” Brewer told Politicker. “So, I think I just bring a long history, and in the last 12 years, I’ve been able to pass legislation I think helps people. It’s something that I’d love to do on a larger scale, but I do love my neighborhood.”

Brewer would replace current Borough President Scott Stringer, who is running for mayor. The borough president reports to the mayor, making official recommendations, community board member appointments, and land-use decisions.

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Common App to be revamped by 2013

BY ELIZABETH STRASSNER
Columbia Daily Spectator

At 36, the Common App is getting a face-lift.

In anticipation of a significant increase in traffic, the Common Application, or Common App—the college application website that streamlines applying to multiple schools—is set to build a new online system, which will be launched in summer 2013.

“We are preparing for growth to occur at double or triple volume by the end of the current decade,” Rob Killion, the executive director of the Common Application, said. “That is the sole reason why we’re now building the fourth iteration of

the Common App Online.”

Last year, 750,000 students used the Common App to submit approximately 2.5 million applications to over 400 universities and colleges, and those numbers are only expected to rise. Columbia College, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, Barnard College, and the Jewish Theological Seminary all use the system.

Killion said that the organization believes the surge of applications will be due more to an increase in the total number of applicants, rather than growth in applications per student.

The board of the organization conducted an 18-month review that determined that a new

online system would be necessary in the coming years.

The new interface, which is still in the process of being designed, will be intended to maximize efficiency, Common Application, Inc. Board President and Secretary Martha Merrill said in a statement when the announcement was made earlier this month.

The exact changes that the new version will include have not been announced, but they may include having fewer questions per page, questions whose answers will determine what subsequent questions appear for students on later pages, a service that enables applicants to pose questions to a team of college counselors, and a solution to the common complaint of “truncation,” when a student’s writing appears complete on the application screen but is cut off on the application that admissions officers receive.

Columbia students said a Common App that enables students to communicate personal information more clearly would have been a welcome change during the application process.

Doug Kronaizl, CC ’15, suggested that the Common App implement a checkpoint system, where a student’s work may be saved automatically

SEE COMMON APP, page 2

Econ dept. makes course evaluations public

BY LILLIAN CHEN
Spectator Staff Writer

In a first step toward making course evaluations public, the economics department released many of its fall 2011 course evaluations on CourseWorks Monday morning.

The Student Affairs Committee of the University Senate is planning to present a resolution this year to publish course evaluations. Students are asked to complete evaluations at the end of each semester.

The economics department is one step ahead, reverting to a practice it had started in 2003 but abandoned in recent years of posting evaluations online, according to Susan Elmes, director of undergraduate studies in the economics department. The department used to post evaluations to its website, but when it no longer had the staff to put them up in a timely manner, the practice was discontinued.

Quantitative results in three categories—effectiveness of instructors, readings and course materials, and physical classroom location—for all of the economics department’s undergraduate lecture courses and some senior

SEE EVALUATIONS, page 2

A&E, PAGE 3

‘Vagina Monologues’ gets two takes

Medical School students and V-Day participants stage two different productions of the ever-evolving Eve Ensler play.



OPINION, PAGE 4

Pen and paper

Po Linn Chia argues that overreliance on technology in the classroom is not constructive.

Vantage points

Kathryn Brill urges students to appreciate college life but look back and forward also.

SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Penn, Yale keep eyes on Ivy crown

Although Harvard has maintained its dominance in the Ivy League this season, Penn and Yale are only two games behind the Crimson.

EVENTS

Varsity Show 118: West End Preview

Catch a sneak preview of the annual student-written, student-composed musical.

Havana Central, 8 and 10:30 p.m.

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Ex-cons work to get guns away from kids

S.N.U.G. from front page

mediation. Sociology professor Carla Shedd, who has worked with at-risk youth in Chicago, said that S.N.U.G.'s method of employing violence interrupters was effective.

"I think the idea of embedding people in the midst of the violence who are familiar with the dynamics is valuable," Shedd said. "They do have this on-the-ground knowledge and it immediately opens up a respectful exchange between actors."

City Council member Inez Dickens, who has been a vocal advocate to stop what she has called the "unfortunate proliferation of violence," has supported the efforts of S.N.U.G.

"It's a holistic approach, working for the many things we need to put in place to save our children. I don't believe in acting when a crime happens—you need to act before to lessen these horrible incidents," Dickens said. "We have to show our young people that there's another way."

That need may be greater than ever, Bennett said, as "there's a much greater potential for violence than most people actually realize."

"In our work, we've had over a hundred mediations, most of which would have turned into physical violence without our intervention," he said. "We know there are kids with their finger on the trigger, ready to go if the wrong thing happens."

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CHRISTINA PHAN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ACCEPTED | The Office of Undergraduate Admissions started accepting the Common App in 2010.

Common App expects double the traffic

COMMON APP from front page

while he or she continues to work on a single page.

"My power went out, just as I was typing in Common App, and I lost my work on that page," he said. "I hope that's something they fix."

Students also expressed concern over space limits in

the application.

"I found it really annoying when I was doing Common App that for AP testing they only gave you four or five spots to fill out," Haylin Belay, CC '15, said. "It would be good if they let you add more tests."

In addition to the changes to its online system, Common Application, Inc. is also planning a variety of changes to

the company's infrastructure. These changes, effective summer 2014, include the establishment of a physical office in Washington, D.C., and the formal hiring of an information technology staff that will work exclusively for the Common Application, a task previously outsourced to external technology firms.

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Post-WWII, profs worked as spies, Dirks says

DIRKS from front page

after World War II is significant," he said.

"It is up to us to keep that debate going and that we have the tools to make the debate seem as necessary and indeed as urgent as possible," Dirks said. "One way or the other, we should be able to learn from the time many of our scholars were spies, without having to become spies all over again."

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DOUGLAS KESSEL / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DIRKS, NICHOLAS DIRKS | Dirks spoke about professors of area studies who were recruited as spies post-World War II.

Econ course evaluations put online

EVALUATIONS from front page

seminars have been released. The published evaluations did not include any written comments.

Elmes said students often decide against taking a certain class or choosing an instructor due to outdated student-written reviews on the Columbia Underground Listing of Professor Ability, or CULPA.

"Students may be making poor choices in course selection due to incomplete or faulty information," she said. "We hope that these evaluations will be one factor that students consider."

In an email to economics students, department administrator Laura Yan said that evaluations were only made public if more than 50 percent of the class responded and if there were at least nine responses. Overall, 26 evaluations are available, including those for Principles of Economics, Intermediate Macroeconomics, and Intermediate Microeconomics.

Evaluations from 2002 to 2004 for courses in the School of Engineering and Applied Science are still available online, but it appears that the economics course evaluations posted Monday are

the most recent ones since then.

A SAC subcommittee chaired by Ryan Turner, a graduate student in SEAS, and Sarah Snedeker, BC '12, is currently working on a report and proposal to make course evaluations public across all schools and all departments at Columbia. SAC co-chair and University Senator Alex Frouman, CC '12, said they aim to have both ready to present to the entire senate by mid-March.

"Overall quality of course evaluations for everyone increases when there's a sense among the students that there's a real reason for them to be filling out the evaluations," he said.

Allan Kang, CC '14 and a prospective financial economics major, said these evaluations would be a "good complement" to CULPA.

At the same time, he said, "I don't think having this quantitative assessment can replace" written reviews.

Shara Mohtadi, CC '14 and a prospective economics-political science major, agreed, saying that qualitative reviews "would be more accurate just because it's a lot more wide-ranging."

Justin Yang, CC '13 and a financial economics major, said that releasing the evaluations was good for transparency.

"I think it's definitely a step that all the departments should think about taking," Yang said. "It would be great if every student would be able to access that regardless of their major or school."

University Senator Kenny Durell, CC '12, said that having the evaluations was a "nice first step," but that CourseWorks was an inadequate platform in the long run for course evaluations.

"It's certainly not a perfect search engine," he said. "It's going to get way, way muddier once more classes get added on. We need to be thinking long-term planning."

Durell said that not being able to compare different courses and instructors side-by-side was one major flaw. "If they're not really streamlined to help you find classes in an effective manner, then it doesn't matter," he said.

Having a clear presentation of evaluations is particularly important for the student of economics, Michael Riordan, chair of the economics department, said.


"As we explain in the Economics courses we teach, consumers make better choices when they have better information," Riordan said in an email.

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YAN WONG FOR SPECTATOR

GIRL POWER | CUMC students will perform playwright Eve Ensler’s “The Vagina Monologues” on Feb. 23, 24, and 25 at Alumni Auditorium.

Two groups put new spin on ‘Vagina Monologues’

BY LESLEY THULIN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

For many feminist activists in February, “V” stands for victory, Valentines, and vaginas.

The “V” comes from the V-Day campaign, a global activist movement created by playwright Eve Ensler to end violence against women and girls. Every year hundreds of communities and college campuses put on productions of Ensler’s 1997 Obie-Award-winning “The Vagina Monologues,” an episodic play that narrates women’s experiences with their sexuality.

This year, two different student organizations at Columbia are presenting the show. The undergraduate group Columbia University V-Day performed Feb. 17 and 18 in the Roone Arledge Auditorium for crowds of up to 500 people, with proceeds going to Girls for Gender Equity, while the Columbia University Medical Center students will perform the show Thursday, Feb. 23 through Saturday, Feb. 25 at Alumni Auditorium. CUMC’s production primarily features nursing and public health students. CUMC’s proceeds will benefit V-Day and Domestic and Other Violence Emergencies, a program run out of the Columbia NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital.

Performed annually since its off-Broadway premiere in 1996, “The Vagina Monologues” presents directors with the challenge of keeping the material fresh.

The director of Columbia’s undergraduate rendition of “The Vagina Monologues,” Morgaine Gooding-Silverwood, CC ’14 and a women’s and gender studies major, said her production would be “100 percent different” from last year. Gooding-Silverwood said that undergraduates at Columbia and Barnard have performed the show since 1998.

“There’s just so much you can do with it,” she said. Lacking an overarching storyline, the show’s

non-traditional format leaves it “really open to interpretation.”

In last year’s show, the actors performed their monologues alone onstage. But this year, the whole cast interacted with one another during each other’s monologues.

“At one point, this one girl gets swallowed up by the cast, having an orgasm on the stage,” Gooding-Silverwood said.

The content of all “Vagina Monologues” shows also differs from year to year because Ensler adds new characters and monologues each year herself, including more stories of women of color and LGBT women.

This year marked the second time Gooding-Silverwood directed “The Vagina Monologues.” She first directed the show during her senior year of high school, when she presented it as a staged reading with six people. She compared the experience to “coming out of the closet as a feminist.”

“The experience was so good the first time that I wanted to see if I could recreate it in college,” she said. According to Gooding-Silverwood, this year’s show has been equally transformative.

“I had this guy from one of my classes come up to me and be like, ‘I thought that feminism before, like, I didn’t get it. I kind of thought it was just really overreacting. But now I feel like I really understand.’ I want that to happen every time the show goes on.”

Becky Fein, Public Health ’12 and director of CUMC’s production of “The Vagina Monologues,” hopes her audiences will share a similar experience. Fein is pursuing a masters degree in population and family health with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive health.

“I hope they gain a sense of awareness,” she said. “I think this show is one that really introduces a level of complexity that people aren’t really aware exists. I know the first time I walked away

from it, I just felt so empowered. I felt so proud to be a woman and so excited that this discussion was happening. I hope that when people walk away from my show of it, they have that same sense of empowerment and pride.”

Although Fein hasn’t been involved with theater in the past, she had seen “The Vagina Monologues” several times before and kept mental notes for the day she would direct it.

“A lot of things that were important to me when I approached it was making a really cohesive production,” she said. Fein will include a narrator and a band to develop a sense of continuity between the monologues.

In addition to “a few smaller details,” Fein will vary the content of the show with Ensler’s newest monologues, which include narratives of women from the war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo and regions that have been affected by natural disasters.

“This year, specifically, has been a very heavy show because of the climate of the world right now,” she said. “I appreciate that about the script—that it changes a little bit each year.”

Fein also plans to incorporate a recent piece Ensler wrote for the Huffington Post, titled “Over It,” which addresses rape culture.

“It is essential in this conversation,” Fein said. “It’s such an inspirational call-to-action.”

According to Fein, this February marks the eighth or ninth year that CUMC students have performed the show. Overall, Fein said that her production is in line with last year’s.

“I think as a director, you kind of find your style with it. It is a challenge to mix it up, but at the same time, some of the consistency of it I find to be part of the beauty. Because every year, there are people who’ve never seen it before. Most of the crowd will have never seen it before.”

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Bluegrass group making a name on, off campus

BY BRENDAN DONLEY
Columbia Daily Spectator

Helping to spread the genre he loves to Columbia from the Appalachian Mountains, Jordan Shapiro has been taking his bluegrass group of 15 students out into the city to create a new generation of bluegrass buffs in an unlikely place.

Since taking the helm last fall from Toby King, the group’s founder, Shapiro has continued to bring this style of American country music, developed from Scottish and Appalachian folk music and African American country blues, to his weekly class of students with little to no background in the music. “These days, people are learning about bluegrass and learning how to play it in all corners of the world, especially in this country,” Shapiro said.

Shapiro is a purist at heart though: He characterizes his selections as “100 percent the traditional bluegrass canon.”

One of the students in the group, Gabby Siegel, BC ’14, first approached bluegrass at Columbia with only the experience of hearing the music live during a trip to Memphis. “The genre is spreading. It’s not just confined to one region anymore,” Siegel said, adding that she was excited to learn bluegrass away from its traditional setting.

For those looking to branch out from a classical background, bluegrass “has the freedom and the looseness, but they can really apply their fine-tuned ears and fine-tuned musical sensibilities to do something new,” Shapiro said. “The feel of bluegrass is so different,” he added.

Some of the most appealing aspects of bluegrass, such as the high-pitched harmonizing vocals, tremendous speed, and sense of intuition, offer a different experience than the music that many of the students were used to. For Siegel, “It’s all about personality. For bluegrass, personality is essential.”

Drawn to bluegrass from many parts of the country and different musical backgrounds, Siegel and the other students display the community that defines bluegrass by coming together with Shapiro and playing together in smaller groups. “Watching them the past few times, it’s great to see they have that special charisma and showmanship that is so important to bluegrass,” Shapiro said.

“The genre is spreading. It’s not just confined to one region anymore.”

—Jordan Shapiro, CU Bluegrass leader

The group’s growth under Shapiro has brought more opportunities to perform and develop its sound, both at Columbia and elsewhere in the city. Before his tenure, the bluegrass group performed once on campus once each semester. This year, Shapiro said, “I want to make it a point to have more than one final concert.” He has already brought the group to Brooklyn for a John Hartford Tribute Night under the pseudonym “The Shapiro Family Band.” They have also performed on Columbia’s radio station, WKCR.

Shapiro admitted difficulties to bringing an unfamiliar genre to New York, saying, “not that many people play banjo, especially at this demographic, this age, this area of the country, this point in people’s lives.”

The passion and interest for the music is present, however, allowing bluegrass to grow in Morningside Heights and beyond. “Generally speaking, you’re going to find that bluegrass musicians are open and welcoming wherever you go,” Shapiro said.

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ZARA CASTANY / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SNEAK PEAK | The Varsity Show cast practices one more time before their preview at Havana Central.

V-show to preview tonight at Havana

BY CHRISTIN ZURBACH
Spectator Staff Writer

With commentary on sex, Butler, and Lit Hum, the 118th Varsity Show will be partially unveiled at tonight’s West End Preview.

At 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., the cast will perform a three-song sampler at Havana Central (2911 Broadway, between 113th & 114th streets) for \$3 at the door.

“It’s well-observed, small, recognizable moments from daily life and a couple of familiar locations made fun of,” director Alex Hare, CC ’13, said. These moments are meant to give a taste of the show and introduce the cast to the Columbia public. “We wanted to put some of our funny jokes that aren’t related to the plot directly,” writer Jon Goodwin, CC ’12, said. “This is really going to showcase our singers and our talent.”

For talent, watch out for the cute yet terrifying facial expressions of ensemble member Kaylin Mahoney, CC ’15, in opening number “Occupy Butler,” as well as the unified mayhem of marching studiers. In its Monday night run-through, the cast was dressed

down but amped up as it preached Butler 209 fervor to the one percent.

The second scene switched from Butler to Koronet at 2 a.m. and from music to dialogue, where Allie Carieri, CC ’15 and Arts & Entertainment associate, cried while hashtagging her sorrows and warding off nerdy pickup lines.

“They’re a really charismatic group and work so well together,” writer Jeff Stern, CC ’12, said about the cast, who spent breaks between scene chatting and cracking jokes. The band, on the other hand, was too engrossed in the music to join in.

Although it consists of just four people—a keyboardist, cellist, drummer, and saxophone player doubling as a clarinetist—the preview band has a full jazzy sound. For best sound balance, don’t stand too close.

The final musical number best showcases the voices of the cast with a harmonized rendition of a tune all-too-familiar to Columbians. As the final notes rang out, composer/lyricist Solomon Hoffman, CC ’14, knocked his sheet music to the ground with excitement.

“This is one of those things that break up that long spell,” Goodwin said. “The hibernation,” Stern added.

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Speak now for peace

BY DAVID FINE

Revelations that the New York Police Department surveilled Muslim student organizations here and at other universities should disturb every Columbia student who associates with a political or religious group—actually, every student, period. There is an important debate to be had here on the expansiveness of civil liberties and the effectiveness of such anti-terrorism programs, but the spying program should disturb us as students because it attacks the very core of our purpose here. The threat of NYPD snoops looming over campus might cause those with extreme ideas to suppress them or take them elsewhere out of public sight, underground, and unchallenged by open discourse.

The NYPD's specific targeting of the Columbia Muslim Students Association, a dynamic group that often organizes some of the more considered and stimulating events on campus (some of which The Current, of which I am editor in chief, has gladly co-sponsored), exhibits the silliness that profiling student groups without credible threat or evidence can evince. CU MSA might be a hotbed, but one that the next Fortune 500 CEO, president of the United States, or Supreme Court justice emerges from. However, what if the NYPD were to investigate organizations that hold more extreme, "beyond the pale" views like Students for Justice in Palestine or the Columbia International Socialist Organization—would they be justified then? No. Their Orwellian sounding "Weekly MSA Reports" might get a little juicier, but they would still be very much in the wrong.

It would probably take one hand, not two, to count the number of issues that I agree with SJP or the ISO on.

Against the machine

When I first came to Columbia, I had no real concept of what a paper was. A paper, to my British-educated mind, was an in-class exam and not a take-home essay. It involved writing a thousand words in an hour and a half, in longhand, without access to reference materials. This approach was the antithesis of the technologically-advanced classroom, but I still believe in it.

My final years of high school were spent in a technological backwater. It wasn't so much my school's fault as it was the impetus of my four slightly cranky British teachers. They had gone to Singapore to teach the humanities 30 years before, and they didn't intend to trade pen and paper for laptops or anything. People who brought 21st century technology to class were mocked. There were no textbooks, no PDF files, no online resources. To survive class, you had to write. It left you with only your wits and your memory to contend with 60-year-old men who'd been teaching the subject matter since before you were alive.

I am aware of the hypocrisy of taking a stance against technology in the classroom. I spend a good portion of my time outside the classroom glued to one device or another. I check my smartphone with unceasing regularity and live on my laptop in order



PO LINN CHIA
Ever the Twain

The view from here

I live on the third floor of my building, so I don't really have a view. Luckily, my window doesn't face an air shaft, so I can still see trees, dog walters, and this really cool building that I'm pretty sure was in the movie "Enchanted." But I can't see beyond what surrounds me, can't marvel at the sweeping expanse of apartments and skyscrapers that stretches across Manhattan, can't even remember that I'm only a few hundred feet away from the Hudson. As far as I'm concerned, there's nothing around me but my tiny patch of Morningside Heights.

This is kind of how I feel about going to college. Overall, college is pretty great. Nine days out of 10, I would say I love it, but it's hard to see beyond what's happening to me right now. If a friend I hadn't seen in a while were to ask me "what's new with you?" I'd probably mention the classes I have today, the assignments that are due this week, and maybe my extracurriculars. This isn't everything happening in my life, of course, but I would have a difficult time remembering other stuff. It's no accident that the 10 or so blocks of Morningside Heights are called the Columbia bubble—it comprises not only our physical surroundings, but also our mental and emotional focus.

Of course, there's nothing wrong with fully focusing our energies on college. We're only here for a short



KATHRYN BRILL
We Should Talk

To me, many of their views are historically denatured, separated from reality, and sometimes just plain fantastical. The only way to combat such positions, though, is to counter with better ones. Last week I participated in a debate on President Obama's Middle East policies where we did just that.

There, in Low Library, one of the students representing the ISO heralded terrorist actions like targeting civilians with missiles or suicide bombs as a legitimate form of resistance to the Israeli government. I was appalled that a fellow student would hold such views, but I would have been more appalled if that student had left her ideas unexpressed for fear of being filed away as a potential threat by the NYPD. The chilling effect that the surveillance program might have on campus speech would mean that such views would go unsaid, and thus certain ideologies left unexposed for the truly deleterious modes of thinking that they pose—something more harmful in the long run than a few dilettantes sitting around and speaking reverently of Sayyid Qutb.

At Columbia we are supposed to flirt with strange and sometimes extreme ideas, a process integral to a liberal arts campus.

The debate was hosted by Turath, an Arab students organization. Turath invited the Columbia Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians, the ISO, and The Current to that debate. All of us proved that night, as the ISO raved about elite interests and violent resistance, that the only effective counter uses ideas, not scare tactics, to prove the lie in ridiculous or dangerous philosophies. It is the

to accomplish much of my work. And why not? Technology brings many benefits. As my fellow columnist Arvin Ahmadi mentioned in his column last week ("Wired classrooms," Feb. 13), it gives us access to information, an arguably more efficient form of note-taking, and the ability to collaborate easily with fellow classmates. To do without technology would seem crippling to productivity.

But I think there's a genuine reason why laptops are rarely allowed in seminar classrooms, and I think that reason extends beyond professors' superstitious dislike of the newfangled. Technology helps us to be better, but I'm not sure it helps us to be better thinkers.

For one, access to information is not the same as intelligent processing of information. Google and Wikipedia may put a wealth of information at our fingertips, but no search engine and no encyclopedia can tell us how (and when) to use the tools that the Internet has made available to us. I'm not so sure that the ability to look up a concept or name on the fly in class makes us better learners—on the contrary, I think it makes us reliant on an external body of memory. As agents responsible for our own learning, I feel that we are obliged to go into a classroom prepared to engage with the topics at hand. That means spending time outside of class internalizing material as opposed to spending time looking it up in class. More importantly, we should also expect to leave with questions that can't be answered by briefly scrolling down a list of references.

Moreover, the notes that we take in class don't have to be hyper-comprehensive to the point of being verbatim. One of the reasons that the occupation of educator has not been replaced by a sort of teaching

time, and we want to make the most of it. But part of the point of college is to prepare ourselves for the next steps in our lives: careers, grad school, life as an adult. On the one hand, it would be unfortunate if we lived so much in the future that we forgot to enjoy the present, but on the other hand, it would be equally unfortunate if we forgot that Columbia is not just our temporary home, but our launch pad into the future. Often, we disregard both of these things. We look to the temporary future—spring break for example—as respite from the slog of assignments, focusing our energies neither on the legitimately enjoyable things at college nor on the opportunities that will benefit us in the future. This is a very third-floor way to be. We need better perspective.

We should take the time to reflect on where we've been, where we want to go, and where we are now.

Perspective is one of those things that is easy to talk about but difficult to gain. How, exactly, do you acquire it in the first place? I don't have all the answers to this, but here is how I often stop to think about the bigger picture:

Go somewhere else. Part of the effect of the Columbia bubble is this shrinking of our vision to only the immediate, Columbia-related things. Breaking out of the bubble isn't just about having adventure—it's about remembering that the rest of New York exists and that most people who live here don't study all day.

process of the open market, or, in more contemporary parlance, the incubator, that provides the best avenue with which to thwart extreme ideologies.

By monitoring student organizations like Columbia's MSA, the city's police force too blithely ignores the important function that universities provide to American society as free and open incubators for thought. At Columbia we should flirt with strange and sometimes extreme ideas, a process integral to a liberal arts campus.

Students should be able to express extreme views without the fear of ending up in a police file or report. If one student is inhibited from forthrightly offering her views because of this program, then the NYPD will have chilled free speech on New York's liveliest campus, to the detriment of groups that want to engage the MSA in open discussion.

In the face of such prospects, we students must engage in forceful discourse, sharpen positions, and shout them from atop Low Steps (proverbially, unless you have a sound permit). We should have more debates, write more polemics, especially in the face of police surveillance and documentation. And we should do so knowing that our fellow students, while not necessarily agreeing, will always support our right to argue for what we believe. Let the ideas flow, and the back-and-forth prosper, for we should adhere to the injunction etched atop the College Walk gates that the NYPD seems to have missed: "May All Who Enter Find Peace And Welcome." "Welcome" not necessarily for the thoughts themselves but rather for your right to express them and mine to rebut them. "Peace" not from disturbing ideas but from being disturbed while expressing them.

The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in history. He is editor in chief of The Current. This piece only contains his own personal views and does not reflect those of The Current.

mechanism is that an educator provides his students, not with a list of equations or concepts, but with a methodology and a broader understanding of the material. If our use of technology enables us to copy what is said in class word-for-word, then technology has proved itself a great tool of transcription. That does not make it a great tool for learning.

Technology helps us to be better, but I'm not sure it helps us to be better thinkers.

Ultimately, though, I am not arguing against technology's role in learning. As a tool for research and collaboration, I think technology has been a magnificent and irreplaceable enabler. Instead, I am arguing for a renewed ownership of our studies and thinking skills in the classroom. We should be able to stand, without crutches, on our own intellectual feet and do whatever legwork is required to make that possible. We are not, after all, our machines. A man is but what he knoweth, not what he can looketh up ("Bacon in the Reference Room," Feb. 8).

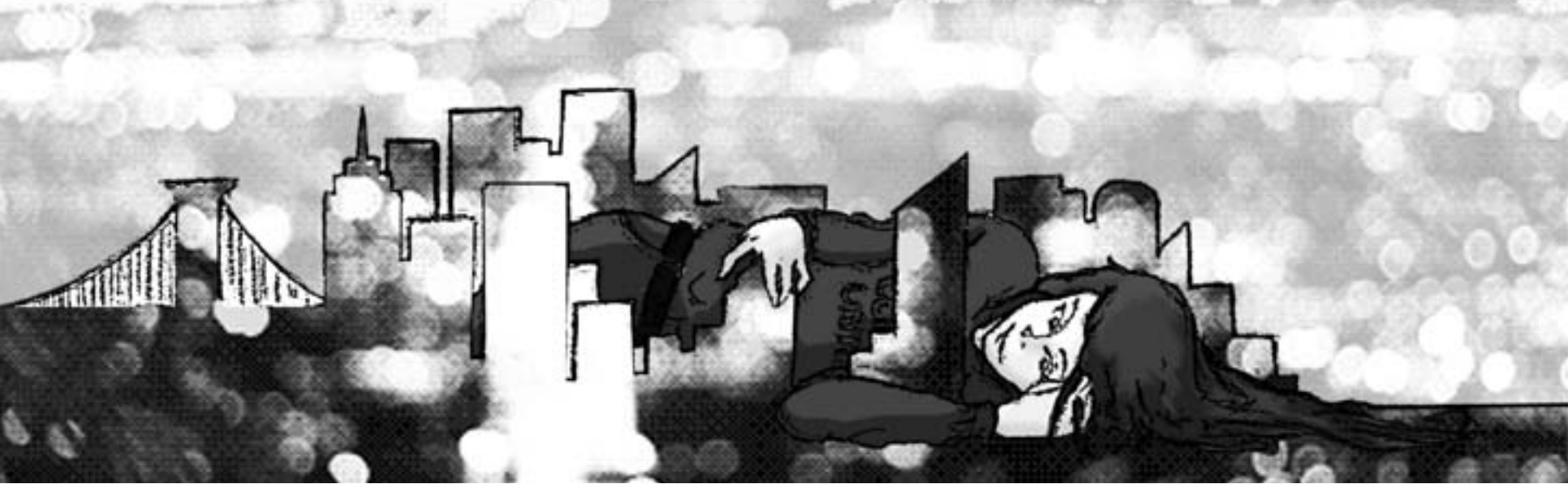
Po Linn Chia is a Columbia College junior majoring in East Asian studies. She is chief of staff for CMUNNY and a member of the Global Recruitment Committee. Ever the Twain runs alternate Tuesdays.

Part of the reason I do a lot of my work in coffee shops is because I'm surrounded by so many different types of people—not just students, but also artists, businesspeople, and everyone in between. It reminds me that one day, I could be the writer tapping on her laptop, the mom ordering her kid a hot chocolate, or the elderly woman taking tiny bites of her pastry. This is far more motivating than being surrounded by very stressed people in Butler. And if you're somewhere way outside the Columbia bubble (like your hometown), that's the perfect time to ...

Look back and look forward. You can also do this in your room. Whatever the surroundings, we should take the time to reflect on where we've been, where we want to go, and where we are now. It's too easy to let one semester turn into another without thinking about the mistakes we made and the things we did well in the last one. During an ordinary week, it often feels like nothing much is happening or changing in my life, but when I look back on where I was two or three years ago, the changes are staggering. We can't always see the immediate results of our decisions or dream about where they might take us in the future without taking the time to reflect.

Whatever our homework situation, whatever our current level of enjoyment, it's nice to go up to the 14th floor for a little while and take a look at the view. It might help us remember what we've been doing on the third floor anyway.

Kathryn Brill is a Barnard College junior majoring in English. She is a member of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. We Should Talk runs alternate Tuesdays.



JASMINE MARIANO

The Columbia Daily Spectator accepts op-eds on any topic relevant to the Columbia University and Morningside Heights community. Op-eds should be roughly 650 words in length. We require that op-eds be sent exclusively to Spectator and will not consider articles that have already been published elsewhere. Letters to the Editor should be no longer than 350 words and must refer to an article from Spectator or The Eye, or a Spectrum post. Submissions should be sent to opinion@columbiaspectator.com. Please paste all submissions into the body of the email. Should we decide to publish your submission we will contact you via email.

Light Blue feels growing pains on the court

11-0. 14-3. 9-0. And, of course, 26-5. No, these aren't some obscure foot-



SAM KLUG
First Touch

In five of Columbia's seven Ivy League losses—all of them except the loss at Harvard and the overtime defeat at Penn this past Saturday—a sustained run in the second half has helped the Light Blue's opponents either come back from a deficit or open up a significant lead. This lack of in-game consistency has measured the difference between Columbia's strong play and its weak league record of 3-7, which has it only one spot above the joint cellar-dwellers Brown and Dartmouth.

The heartbreaking loss to Yale two weekends ago (which doesn't bear recounting) has less egregious and emotionally scarring parallels in other recent Ivy League losses. For proof of the trend, we need look no further than New Jersey—Columbia's last three games against Princeton have followed a remarkably similar script. This past weekend, Columbia held a two-point lead early in the second half, but a 14-3 Princeton run put the Tigers up for good. Earlier in the season, when the Lions faced the Tigers in Levien, an 11-0 run similarly turned the tide in a winnable contest for Columbia. Going back to last season, a 13-3 Princeton run in the teams' second contest of the year turned a Columbia lead into a deficit in the last five minutes, and Princeton went on to win.

Basketball is a game of streaks, more so than almost any other sport. Unfortunately, there's no specific formula for stopping a run or going on one yourself. Coaches try to use a combination of timeouts, substitutions, and tactical changes to slow down or reverse another team's momentum, but ultimately the ability to respond to a big run depends on mental toughness and winning experience. The latter is something that Columbia lacks. Despite the veteran leadership of seniors like Steve Egee, the Lions are still largely a team of underclassmen, and Kyle Smith is in only his second year with the program.

College basketball programs operate on a unique talent cycle. The possibility of having players for only four years at a time, and the dual emphasis coaches must place on making the most of their current talent and recruiting the best talent available for the future, means that most programs require several years of continuity at the head coach level before achieving success.

The recent history of Ivy League basketball supports this notion. Last season, Princeton head coach Sydney Johnson took the Tigers to the Ivy League title in his fourth year with the program. Steve Donahue was in his 10th year at Cornell when he took the Big Red all the way to the Sweet 16 in 2010. This year, first-place Harvard's Lord Voldemort—I mean, Tommy Amaker—is in his fifth year as head coach in Cambridge. James Jones has been in New Haven for a league-high 12 seasons, and Yale is 7-3.

The immediate future of the Columbia men's basketball team further reflects the peculiarities of the college talent cycle. Joe Jones, not Kyle Smith, recruited most of the Lions' strongest players—juniors Brian Barbour and Mark Cisco, along with the injured Noruwa Agho. For the remainder of this season and next, especially if Agho returns for a fifth year, these three players will represent the core of the team and the best hope for the Lions to compete for an Ivy League title (well, just next year for that).

Yet no chemistry problem or clash of styles has stood in the way of a successful partnership between players and coach—Agho developed into a much more complete player under Smith last year, doubling his assist total while maintaining his impressive scoring rate, and Barbour and Cisco have blossomed this year. Rather, the Light Blue's difficulties in closing out games appear to represent the growing pains that come when a talented team must turn a losing history into a winning future.

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Dartmouth wins its first Ivy game of the season

BY ALISON MACKE
Spectator Staff Writer

BROWN

The Bears also had a lackluster outing against their Ivy opponents. In its first game, Brown fell behind by Harvard's 20-0 run in the first half. The upside to Brown's 69-42 loss to the Crimson was the return of sophomore guard Sean McGonagill, the team's top scorer. In his first game back, the sophomore posted 11 points for Brown. The Bears traveled to Dartmouth next, and the teams were evenly matched. The home team trailed for most of the first half, but it overcame deficits three times to gain the 58-53 win over Brown.



CORNELL

It was a disappointing weekend for the Big Red. In its game against Penn, the Big Red was unable to limit its turnovers. Cornell gave the ball up 10 times over the first 20 minutes of the game. The Big Red led by six points in the second half, but after 11 lead changes and 10 ties, the team fell 66-73. After the close game against Penn, Cornell went to visit the Tigers. Princeton shot 69 percent from the floor and dominated on the glass, leading it to a 75-57 victory over the Big Red.

DARTMOUTH

Despite Dartmouth's best efforts, Yale handed the Big Green its 20th straight league loss. Freshmen forwards Gabas Maldunas and Jvonte Brooks both aided their team by posting 23 and 14 points, respectively, but that wasn't enough to help raise their team from the bottom of the Ivy League standings. They fell to the Bulldogs 70-61. It was not an entirely lost weekend for the home team, though. Dartmouth posted its first league victory of the season against the Bears, 58-53. The win came in the last seven minutes of play when the Big Green outshot Brown 15-3. This win also broke Dartmouth's 20-game losing streak in conference play.

HARVARD

The Crimson posted wins against Brown and Yale this weekend for their 26th and 27th straight home wins. In its first game, Harvard posted a 69-42 win against Brown, with senior forward Keith Wright earning his fifth double-double of the season. The team maintained a consistent dominance over the Bears throughout the first half, shooting nearly 64 percent from the field. Brown quickly closed the gap to 16 at the beginning



KATE SCARBOROUGH/SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TITLE DEFENSE | Junior guard Brandyn Curry aided Harvard to victory over Brown with 18 points and five assists. Harvard swept the weekend.

of the second half, but that proved to be insufficient against Harvard's 32-point second half. Yale proved to be a slightly more challenging opponent, keeping the Crimson to shooting just 57 percent in the first half. Junior guard Brandyn Curry led his team to a 66-51 win with 18 points and five assists.

PENN

Senior guard Zack Rosen had something to prove for the Tigers this weekend, leading his team to victory over Cornell, 73-66. The Quakers were trailing 59-55 late in the game, and in the last 11 minutes, Rosen took control. In the last 26 points of the game, he scored 17 and assisted in the other nine. The next night, Penn forced a nail-biter against Columbia. The Lions led 54-53

PRINCETON

The Tigers and the Lions played a back-and-forth game this weekend. The two teams traded the lead nine times and moved past nine ties before the stalemate was broken late in the second half. With less than nine minutes left in play, the Tigers went on a 7-0 run which gave them the 51-42 lead. Columbia stayed behind for the rest of the game, and fell 77-66. In

RK (Ivy)	TEAM
1 23-3 (9-1)	HARVARD CRIMSON Harvard kept its momentum going, winning its 27th consecutive home game.
2 15-11 (7-2)	PENN QUAKERS Penn's senior guard Zack Rosen carried his team to victories against Cornell and Columbia.
3 17-7 (7-3)	YALE BULLDOGS The Bulldogs relied on free throws against Dartmouth, but that was not enough to beat Harvard.
4 15-10 (6-3)	PRINCETON TIGERS Princeton continued its four-game Ivy win streak against Columbia and Cornell.
5 10-4 (5-5)	CORNELL BIG RED After a back-and-forth game against Penn, Cornell fell after 11 lead changes.
6 14-12 (3-7)	COLUMBIA LIONS Columbia had quite the nail-biter in OT against Penn, but the Quakers pulled ahead for the win.
7 7-20 (1-9)	BROWN BEARS Brown struggled this weekend, but found some hope when sophomore Sean McGonagill returned.
8 5-21 (1-9)	DARTMOUTH BIG GREEN Dartmouth snapped a 20-game losing streak in the league with its win against Brown.

its fourth straight Ivy win, Princeton beat Cornell, 75-57. Sophomore guard T.J. Bray was one of four Tigers who scored double-double digits, aiding his team to victory.

YALE

Although Dartmouth's record places it last in the Ivy League, the Big Green still gave the Bulldogs some trouble. Free throws were a large part of Yale's 70-61 victory over Dartmouth. The Bulldogs had 33 free throw attempts in the game—the third most attempts for the team this season. After the win against Dartmouth, Yale went on to face Harvard. Senior center Greg Mangano had a big game with 22 points and 11 rebounds, but ultimately that was not enough to overcome Harvard. Yale fell 66-51.

Princeton holds on to first place, Big Green wins second Ivy game

BY HAHN CHANG
Spectator Staff Writer

This week, Ivy League women's basketball was filled with upsets and thrilling last-minute runs, yet the standings remain virtually unchanged from last week as the season draws to a close. Princeton sits comfortably on top in the Ivy League standings, and these last two weeks will provide teams with their last opportunities to de-throne Princeton as the Ivy League champion.



BROWN

Brown started its weekend strong with a commanding first-half performance against the Crimson, leading 31-25 going into the half. The Bears built off their lead with a team effort as four of their five starters finished the game in double digits. However, as Harvard mounted a late comeback run, Brown faltered, not making a single field goal in the last 6:58 in the game. Even with 11 missed field goals in the last seven minutes, Brown prevailed, 58-55. In their second contest of the weekend against Dartmouth, the Bears struggled as none of their starters got more than nine points. In the end, the Bears were edged out 57-52.

CORNELL

The Big Red struggled offensively all weekend, scoring a total of only 81 points between its two contests. But in a low-scoring game against Penn, Cornell's 45 points led it to edge out the Quakers 45-42. While the Big Red was limited to just 32 shots compared to Penn's 68, Cornell hit half of its shots, giving it enough juice to emerge victorious at the end of the game. When the Big Red faced the Tigers, none of

Cornell's players scored in the double digits as Princeton crushed the Big Red, 75-39.

DARTMOUTH

Dartmouth opened up its weekend against Yale with a failure to produce offensively in the first half, scoring only 16 points. While the Big Green doubled its offensive production in the second half with 32 points, it was not enough to overcome the Yale Bulldogs in a 66-48 loss. The Big Green came back to upset the Brown Bears, 57-52, in large part due to the dominant performances of junior guard Faziiah Steen and freshman center Tia Dawson, who combined for 31 points. With the game tied with only 48 seconds remaining, Steen hit a three-point shot to turn the tide and secure the Big Green's second Ancient Eight victory.

HARVARD

Harvard split its weekend series on the road against the Brown Bears and the Yale Bulldogs. Being down by 12 with only 5:30 to go in the game, Harvard mounted an impressive 12-3 run in the final minutes, bringing the Crimson within three as the game clock neared its final seconds. However, Harvard could not seal the deal—forward Emma Golen missed a three-point shot with just five seconds left, and Brown finished out on top, 58-55. The Crimson toppled Yale, 71-51, resulting in a weekend split. Harvard pulled away in the second half, scoring 44 points, 23 of which were recorded by sophomore guard Christine Clark.

PENN

Penn opened up the weekend against Cornell. While Penn's biggest offensive weapon, former Ivy League Rookie of the Year Alyssa Baron, scored 18 points, her teammates could not follow suit. The game remained close, with Penn's defense forcing 24 turnovers, but the

Quakers ultimately fell to the Big Red, 45-42. Coming into play against the Light Blue, Baron rebounded quickly, putting up 25 points and leading the Quakers to a commanding 61-41 victory over the Lions.

PRINCETON

The Tigers secured their eighth and ninth Ivy victories of the season, putting Princeton's current win streak at 12 games. The Tigers easily barreled past both Columbia and Cornell by a total margin of 76 points this weekend. In the game against Columbia, rebounding emerged as the key in Princeton's dominance as the Tigers out-rebounded the Lions 52-27, with Princeton coming out on top 86-46. Against Cornell, a similar story emerged as the Tigers topped the Big Red off the boards 43-25 as Princeton handily took the game, 75-39. Guard Niveen Rasheed and forward Devona Allgood contributed to Princeton's success against the Big Red by combining for 29 points.

YALE

Yale started the weekend hosting the Big Green and entered halftime leading 38-16, in part due to Megan Vasquez, who scored 14 of her game-high 22 points in the first half. Dartmouth fought back, but the Bulldogs were never in danger of losing the game—they had at least a 15-point advantage over the Big Green throughout the entire second half. The Bulldogs finished the game 66-48. Yale then hoped to hand Harvard its second loss of the weekend, and while Yale played evenly with the Crimson to start out the game, trailing only 27-22 at the half, the Bulldogs' shooting prevented them from staying competitive. Yale shot only 33.3 percent from the field in the second half, compared to Harvard's 66.6 percent. Yale ended up on the losing side of a 71-51 score.

RK (Ivy)	TEAM
1 19-4 (9-0)	PRINCETON TIGERS The Tigers' easy victories over Columbia and Cornell added to Princeton's 12-game win streak.
2 15-9 (7-3)	YALE BULLDOGS Yale split its competitions this weekend, easily defeating Dartmouth before falling to Harvard.
3 13-10 (6-3)	HARVARD CRIMSON Time was not on the Crimson's side against Brown. Harvard fell in the last five seconds of the game.
4 15-9 (6-4)	BROWN BEARS After a narrow victory over Harvard, Brown's starters struggled against Dartmouth.
5 10-13 (4-5)	CORNELL BIG RED The Big Red barely edged out the Quakers, but could not muster enough shots to beat the Tigers.
6 10-13 (3-6)	PENN QUAKERS Despite Quakers' Alyssa Baron's 18 points, the team fell to Cornell.
7 4-19 (2-7)	DARTMOUTH BIG GREEN The Big Green widened the gap between itself and Columbia with its second Ivy victory.
8 2-21 (0-9)	COLUMBIA LIONS Columbia still struggled, and dropped both games this weekend, leaving it winless in the conference.